Phoenix Serenade
Kuro Hakushaku wa Hoshi o Mederu Chapter 3
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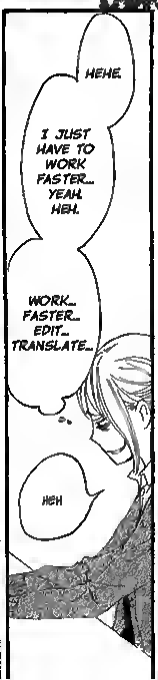

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Chapter 4

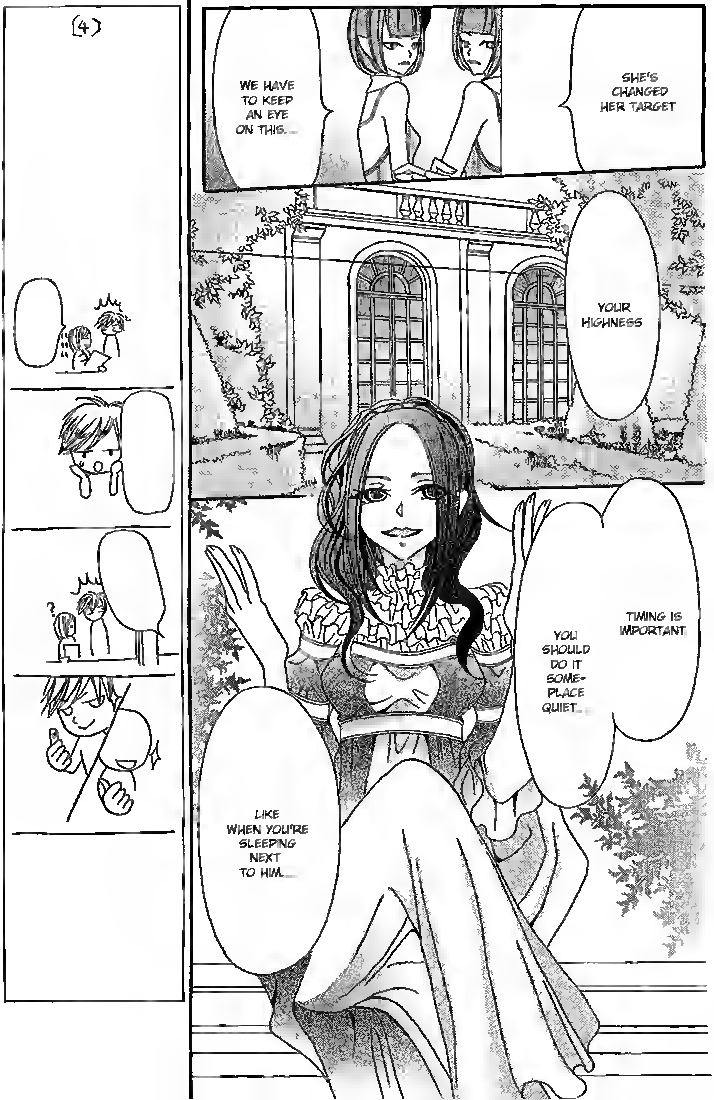
This is the peaceful country of Banforia.
It is ruled by a King bearing great magic powers.
SECRETLY
daze

Since the celebration of the country's founding is being held,
AH!
PRINCESS LILIA, GOOD MORNING!
the days are busier than ever
King's room
PLEASE DON'T JUST STAND THERE, COME ON IN!
WHAT COLOUR SCARF DO YOU LIKE?
.....
Hmm..
How about this one?
THEN, LET'S GO WITH THIS COLOR.
I WILL ALSO BRING SOME OTHER ACCESSORIES.
DRAG
AAHH
AH, TOO
Peridot!
SLAM
.....
It's been such a long time...
ba-dump
ba-dump

AH!
Your Highness.
...It really suits you...
It's my chance to call him by his name!!
All right!
RE...!
RE?
.....
...I screwed up!!
OOPS!

Ahh! I'm so...
I'm so embarrassed!...
It's so hard to say his name...
SLAM!
.....
dash
PLEASE EXCUSE ME!
IT'S NOTHING!
YOUR HIGHNESS
WHY ARE YOU COWERING THERE IN THE CORNER?
AH!
Adina!
WHAT IS THE MATTER?
sigh...
I couldn't call his highness by his name.

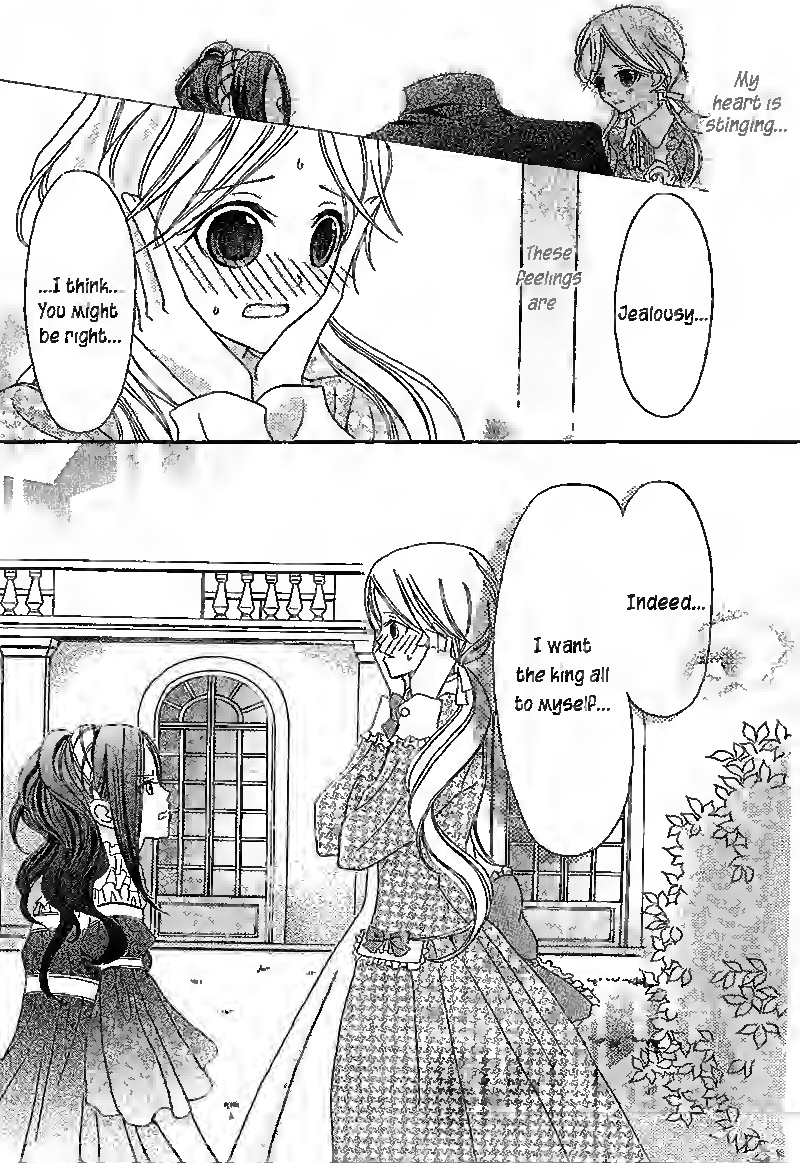
Smile
IT'S OKAY
ANYONE WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME IF THEY WEREN'T USED TO IT.
IF YOU PRACTICE I'M SURE YOU CAN DO IT.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE, I COULD PRACTICE WITH YOU
Really?
THANK YOU!
Adina's such a nice person!
Yet I feel kind of funny inside...
This calls for some serious contemplation...
I wonder what this funny feeling could be?
Then shall we go outside?
Yes!


(4)
WE HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS...
SHE'S CHANGED HER TARGET
YOUR HIGHNESS
TIMING IS IMPORTANT
YOU SHOULD DO IT SOME-PLACE QUIET...
LIKE WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING NEXT TO HIM...

But..
How Could I..
We haven't actually done that yet..
WHAT ????
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN SPENT THE NIGHT TOGE-THER??
Yes...
SO THIS REALLY IS JUST A POLITICAL MARRIAGE.
THIS COULD WORK!!
YOUR HIGHNESS.
ACTUALLY YESTERDAY I WAS TREATED RATHER COLDLY BY HIS HIGHNESS...
Oh?
WHEN YOU AREN'T THERE...
HE IS FRIGHTENINGLY COLD

IF THIS MARRIAGE PROPOSAL DOESN'T GO FORWARD,
I WILL BE STRIPPED OF MY TITLE AS PRINCESS
How awful!!
GRAB
I BEG YOU!
MY COUNTRY IS BIGGER THAN YOUR HIGHNESS' HOME LAND, BUT,
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF STEALING IT FROM YOU!
IF HIS BELOVED QUEEN TELLS HIM, I'M CERTAIN HIS HIGHNESS WOULD CONSIDER IT...
PLEASE SPEAK TO HIM FOR ME SO THAT I MAY REMAIN IN THIS COUNTRY!!

That is...
Impos-sible...
.....
Huh?
Jealousy?
gasp
WHY?
ARE YOU JEALOUS?
Of the headless king?


My heart is stinging...
Jealousy...
These feelings are
...I think... You might be right...
Indeed...
I want the king all to myself...

I'm sorry.
I'm still studying to be a queen
Also, I don't think I have the power to put a good word to his Highness...
BUT I WILL TALK TO THE KING OF GAZENS
SO THAT YOU DON'T GET PUNISHED FOR THIS!
SLAP
TCH
OW!
STAND UP
Ah!
NO THANK YOU!!
tap
.....

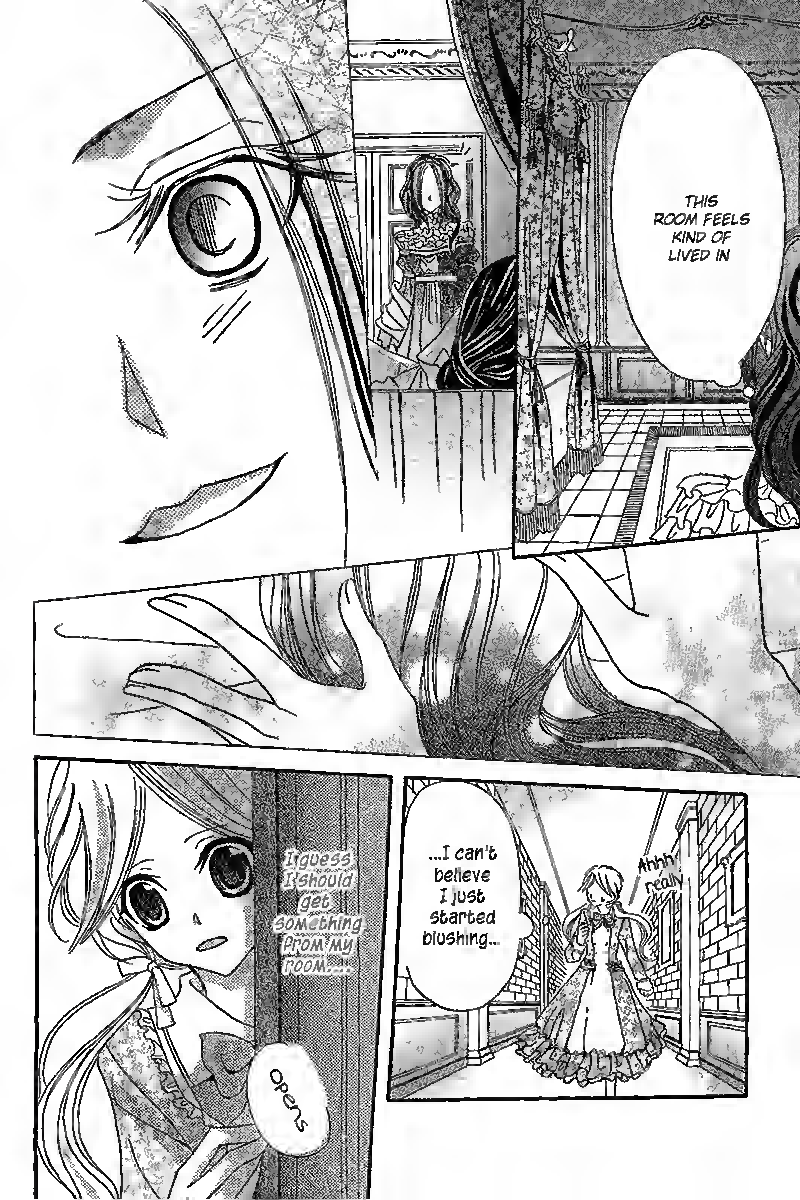
IT IS RIDICULOUS THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE TO TALK TO THE KING ON HER BEHALF
THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOUR CONCERN.
AH!
Garnet.
swish
PRINCESS LILIA...
AH!
Please don't tell His Highness...
She scratched you with her nails!
HOW DARE SHE LAY A HAND ON OUR PRINCESS!
THAT ASIDE,
IF THAT STORY IS ACTUALLY TRUE, THAT IS...
Let's get back now
?
IF THAT'S FOR REAL, HIS HIGHNESS COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
THE STORY ABOUT BEING STRIPPED OF HER TITLE?
hmm
What? Really? I'm so glad!
PRINCESS LILIA...
Because Adina is in a horrible predicament...

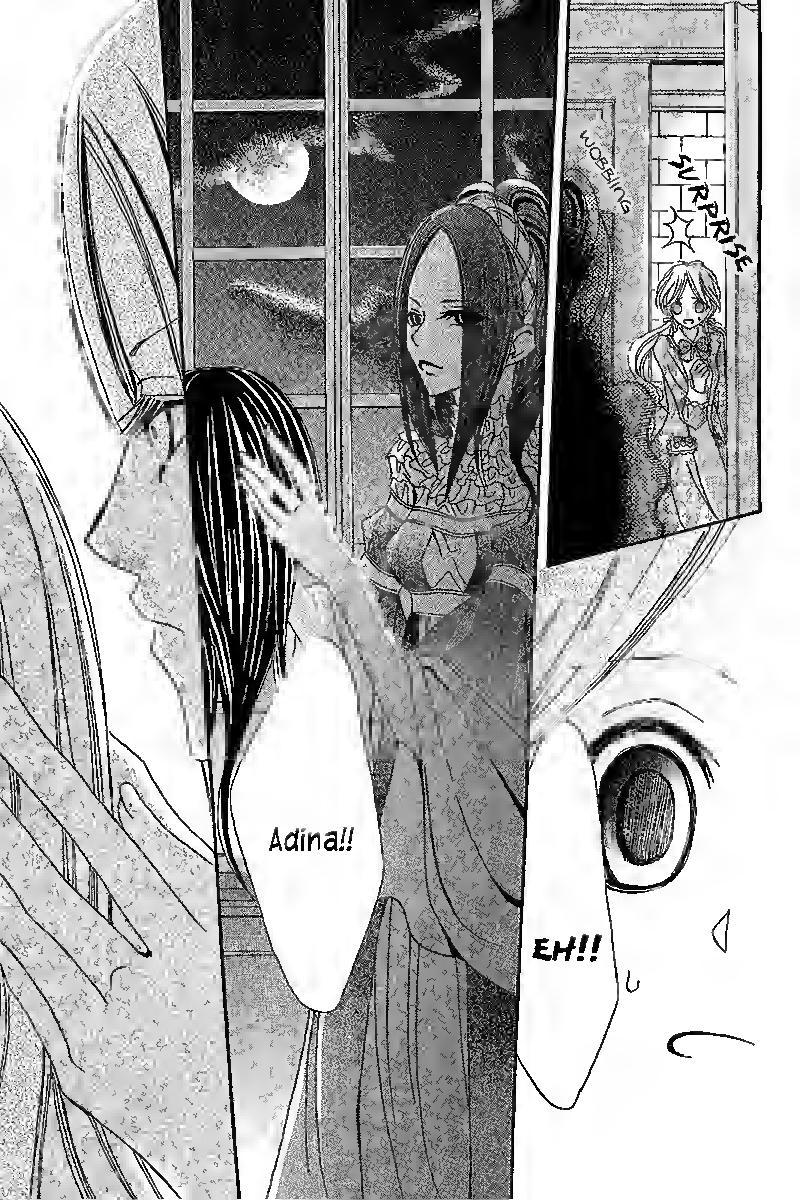
HONESTLY, EVERYONE'S SO USELESS!!
BANG!
WHAT IS THE MATTER?
LILIA ACTUALLY LOVES THAT "HEADLESS KING"!!
AND IT'S A MUTUAL LOVE!
What idiots!
WHAT A FARCE!
HMM...
HIS SORT OF UNIMPRESSIVE SURPRISED FACE
FATHER SAID THAT IF I WASN'T AFRAID OF HIM,
EVERYTHING WOULD GO ACCORDING TO PLAN!!
DAMN IT!!
When I get back, I'll make him buy me so much jewelery!!
SHALL WE FORCE LILIA OUT INSTEAD?
HM?

LET'S FIND OUT HER WEAKNESS AND THREATEN HER.
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.
IF WE DRIVE HER AWAY, HIS HIGHNESS WILL HAVE TO START LOOKING FOR A BRIDE AGAIN.
I'll check out the King
...THEN LET'S SPLIT UP AND START LOOKING
RIGHT.
FINALLY, TOMORROW IS THE BIG DAY.
FOR NOW, LET... TRY TO REMEMBER THE NAMES AND FEATURES OF THE ARISTOCRACY.
Okay!!

All right this one has a beard or something
Hmm
THIS IS COUNT MADORRY.
Is a lot bad?
Hmmm
THIS IS MINISTER KONTY.
THIS IS BARON SANZANY.
What should I do?
They are all the same...
Spirits are bad at drawing
STARE
Eh?

I just...
I just... bumped into the wall! I guess that's why it's red!
averts eyes
.....
STARE
UGH!
she's a terrible liar
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT!!
PUMP
I FORGOT SOMETHING IN MY ROOM!
TAP
rustle
...
AS YOU WOULD EXPECT, THIS PALACE IS HUGE
rustle
I CAN'T EVEN FIND THE QUEEN'S ROOM
OPENS


THIS ROOM FEELS KIND OF LIVED IN
...I can't believe I just started blushing...
Ahhh really
I guess I should get something from my room...
Opens


WOBBLING
SURPRISE
Adina!!
EH!!

THIS IS HIS HIGHNESS' HEAD ISN'T IT?
Why are you here?
You can't just come in without asking!
Gigglc
HIS HIGHNESS HAS A RATHER BEAUTIFUL FACE DOESN'T HE?
... please return his head...
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ACTUALLY UNFAIR?
Eh?

ISN'T IT?
IF HIS HIGHNESS PUT HIS HEAD BACK ON, THE OTHER PRINCESSES WOULD NO LONGER BE AFRAID OF HIM
ACTUALLY, WITH A FACE LIKE THIS, THEY WOULD ALL FALL HEAD OVER HEELS FOR HIM!
DO YOU REALLY THINK
HE WOULD STILL CHOOSE YOU OVER ALL THOSE OTHER PRINCESSES?
!!!
giggle
giggle
AFTER ALL, THE ONLY REASON HE PICKED YOU,
IS BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T AFRAID OF HIM

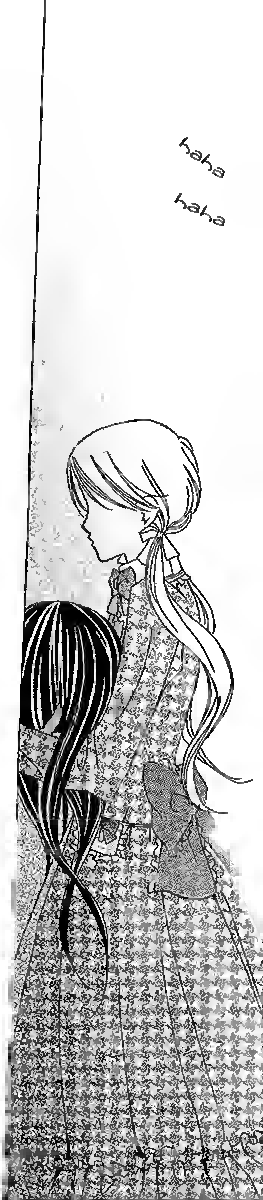
LEARN A LOT FROM YOU.
BUT I CAN REALLY...
BECAUSE SHE HAD SEEN SO MANY PEOPLE DIE DURING THE WAR, SHE WAS NOT AFRAID OF THE HEADLESS KING.
"LET'S GET MY DAUGHTER USED TO DEAD BODIES AS WELL".
WELL THEN...
WHEN HE HEARD THAT, MY FATHER WAS REALLY OVERJOYED.
Why...? so many bodies...
...BODIES WITH NO HEADS, THAT IS.
FROM THAT DAY ONWARD I SAW AROUND A HUNDRED OF THEM...

DON'T WORRY, THE PEOPLE WHO WERE KILLED WERE ALL CRIMINALS
Ahh
BUT BECAUSE THOSE WEREN'T ENOUGH, SOMETIMES HOMELESS PEOPLE WOULD BE KILLED, TOO...
!!
BECAUSE THEY WERE KILLED, OF COURSE!
giggle
giggle
Well
IT'S BASICALLY THE SAME, RIGHT?

YOU...! DOING SUCH THINGS!
I WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU!!
HUH? IS THIS ANY DIFFERENT?
IN A WEAK COUNTRY, MANY WILL DIE.
DOESN'T THAT MAKE THE RULERS RESPONSIBLE? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEM THEM AND MURDERERS?
LILIA...

AN INCOMPETENT KING KILLS HIS PEOPLE.
FATHER...
AH! HERE'S YOUR HEAD!
IT IS YOUR BELOVED KING'S HEAD, AFTER ALL!
PRINCESS OF A SMALL, USELESS COUNTRY...
IF YOU REALLY LOVE HIM, DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE BEST TO STAY AWAY FROM HIM?

clank
. .I'm sorry
Ah
PRINCESS LILIA!
To have left in the middle of practice...
Yes
It bothered me a little..
YOU WENT TO TAKE THE HEAD DIDN'T YOU?
Ok!
THEN, LET'S CONTINUE!


haha
haha

YOUR HIGHNESS...
!
I BROUGHT IN SUCH AN OUTRAGEOUS PERSON.
She is the princess of that green country
Even though everybody was against it...
I'M NOT A USELESS QUEEN, I'M JUST AN AWFUL QUEEN.

rub
rub
Eh?
grab
Ah!
Medicine?
YOUR HIGH-NESS,
I JUST PUT SOMETHING ON HER WOUND EARLIER.
Honestly, it's because you can't relax unless you do everything yourself!
!!
Your Highness...

The next day.
The morning of the anniversary of the country's founding.
SHRIEK!
WHAT?
WHEN WE WOKE UP THIS MORNING, WE FOUND THAT ALL OF OUR LUGGAGE HAD BEEN DESTROYED...
WHY ARE YOU CALLING EVERYBODY OUT SO EARLY IN THE MORNING...
WHAT IS IT?
OF COURSE, EVEN THE DRESSES THAT PRINCESS ADINA WAS GOING TO WEAR TODAY,
ALSO, MOST OF THE CLOTHES SHE BROUGHT HERE
WERE TORN AS WELL.

Sob Sob
LIKE THIS I... I WON'T EVEN HAVE ANY CLOTHES TO WEAR BACK!
THIS IS HARD TO SAY BUT...
I FOUND THIS IN THE ROOM.
THIS RIBBON.
ISN'T THIS YOUR HIGHNESS'?
Wh- What?

TO BE CONTINUED